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ABSTRACT

A cross section of Athabascan life as related by eight inhabitants of Lime Village, Alaska, is given in this document. The short narratives are printed in English and in Dena'ina. Illustrations accompany the text. The stories tell of making eagle feather robes, birchbark or mooseskin boats, a raincoat from black bear intestines, and boots from fish skins. Another story describes how to make a birch bark basket and then brew tea in it by dropping hot stones into the water. A recipe for Indian ice cream includes such ingredients as cooked salmon, moose grease, berries and sugar. Fishing methods include blackfish traps, dipnets, spears for whitefish, and nets for salmon. Wormwood soaks and hot packs are listed as native remedies for blood poisoning, with blackberry tea as a cure for stomach ache or constipation, and red currant bark tea as an aid for those with tuberculosis. The stories also tell of hunting sheep, seals, mountain squirrels, ducks, and black bear. (DS)

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K'QIZAGHETNU HT'ANA

K'QIZAGHETNU HT'ANA
(Stories From Lime Village)

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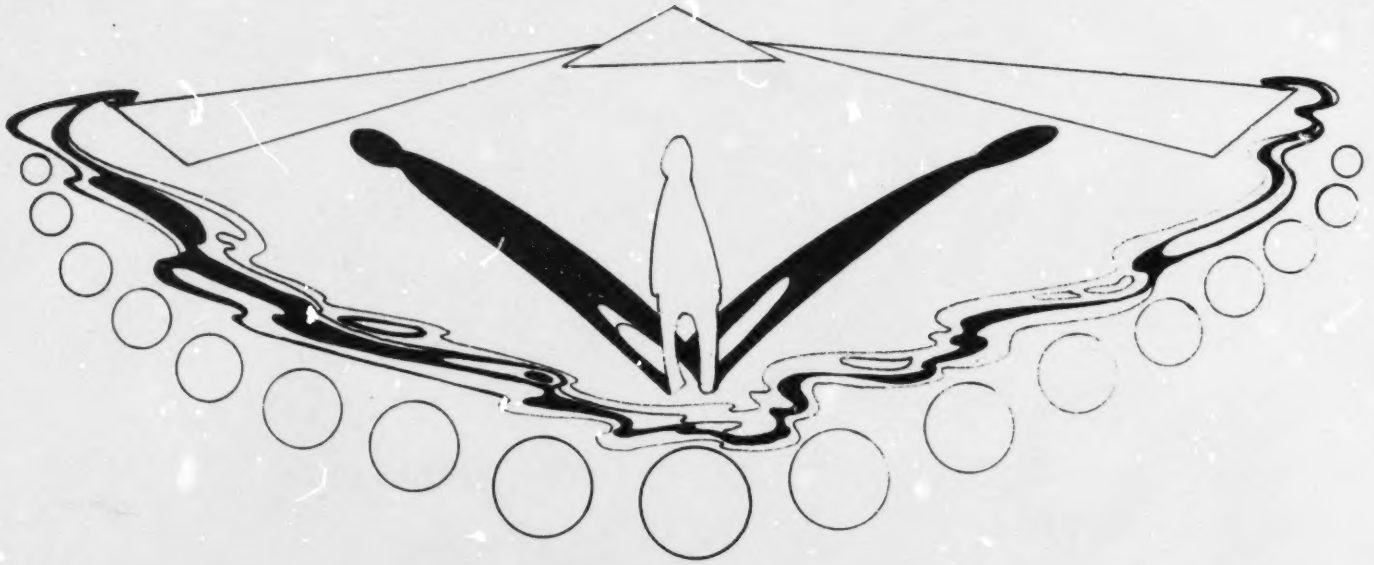
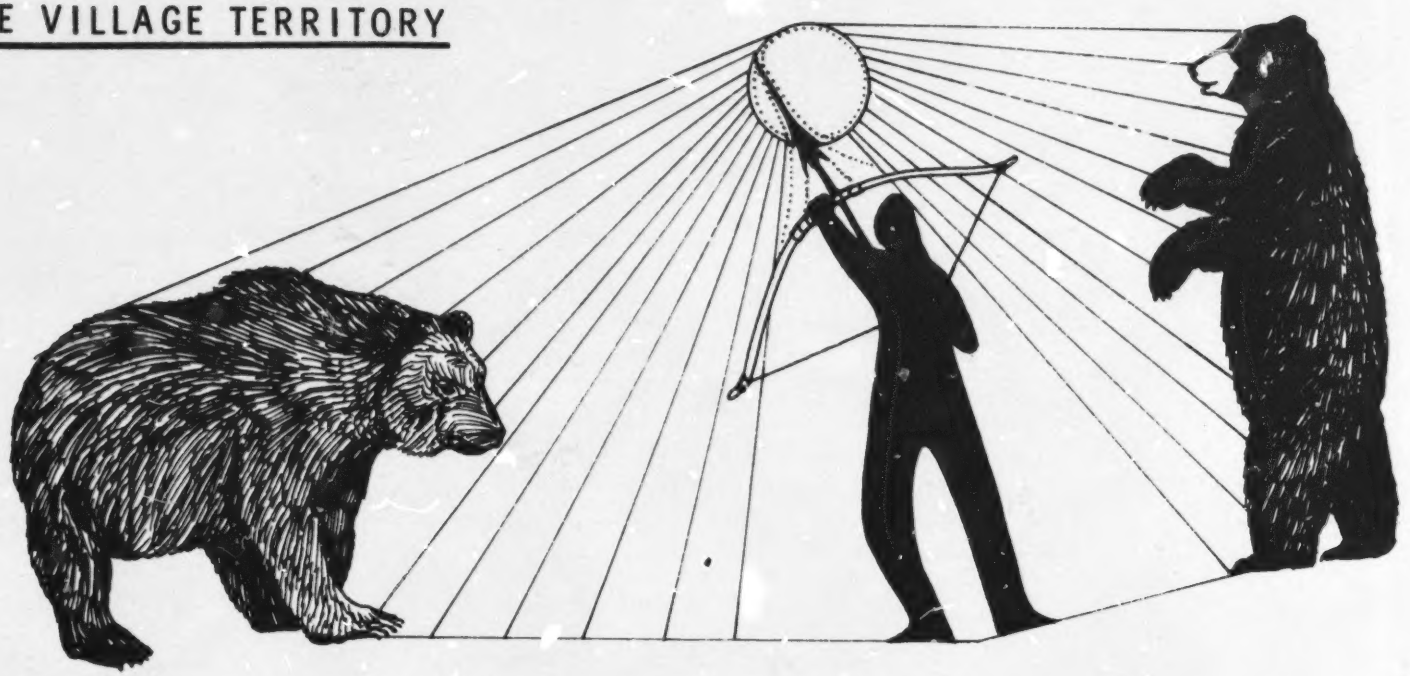
K'QIZAGHETNU HT'ANA EŁNENA



K'qizaghetnu qeł hdghinih natutda naguna shishk'atnahghił'an. Qeghenilen qeł hdghinih. T'anch'u k'iqu qul'ih ch'u Huch'altnu qeł qetnih qech'hdi shtunuqudedił. Heyteh ghunhdi ts'itsatna nudyi qetnih qełah k'uqu qul'ih. Naqeliteh ghu łiq'a iqu qel'ih ghu Vendashvena nihdi Nizdluvena nihdi Qek'dichen vena nihdi łiq'a iqu qul'ih. Dzełken nihdi Huch'altnu nihdi qunsha iqu shtunuhtededił naqeliteh. Shanteh gheli ghuhdi Qeghenilen k'ehdzelghax. K'iqu qul'an ghuhdi ggagga nihdi yeghedishla nihdi tets' eł t'qeyeghił'an, ts'ełt'an eł natutda naguna.

Pete Bobby

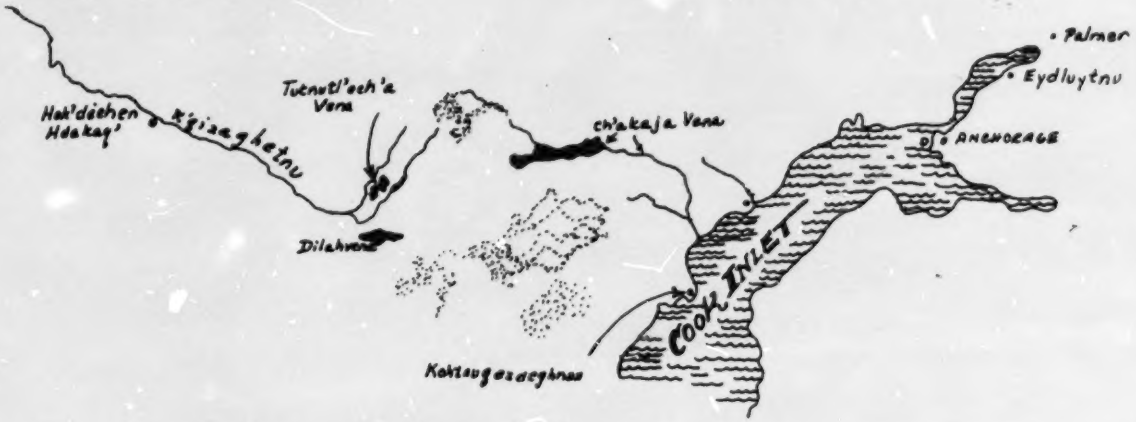
LIME VILLAGE TERRITORY



They say our ancestors were from what they call the K'qizaghetnu. They spoke of Qeghenilen. They all would hunt and they would go out as far as Swift River. In the winter the old people would hunt sheep. In the fall time they would fish at Vendashvena, Nizdluvena, and Qek'-dichen vena. In the Alaska Range and at Swift River they would hunt squirrels. In midsummer there at Qeghenilen, they would put up fish. Our ancestors would hunt brown bear and black bear using a spear or bow and arrow.

PASSES TO COOK INLET

FUSTES NUTI VUGH QECH'



Shtutda shcheyatda eɬ nuti tuvugh t'ehghiɬ'an. Yada nihdi iqu-qul'ih. Yada hutsaghiɬ'i, yada tuq'is nihdi iqu qel'ih. Chickalusion tustes tus nuqutdiɬ Qezdeghnen qech'a. Dilahvena tustes tus nu-qutdiɬ Tuvughnen qech'a. Tutnutl'ech'a tustes k'i Tuvughnen qech'a tus nuqutdiɬ. Ch'u K'qizaghetnu tl'ughu tustes k'i Tuvughnen qech'a.

My father and my grandfather used to go to the seashore to hunt. They would hunt seals and sea otters, they say. They would walk through Chickalusion Pass to Kustatan. They would walk through Telaquana Lake Pass to Tyonek. They could also go to Tyonek through Twin Lakes (Merrill) Pass. The upper Stony River Pass also went to Tyonek.

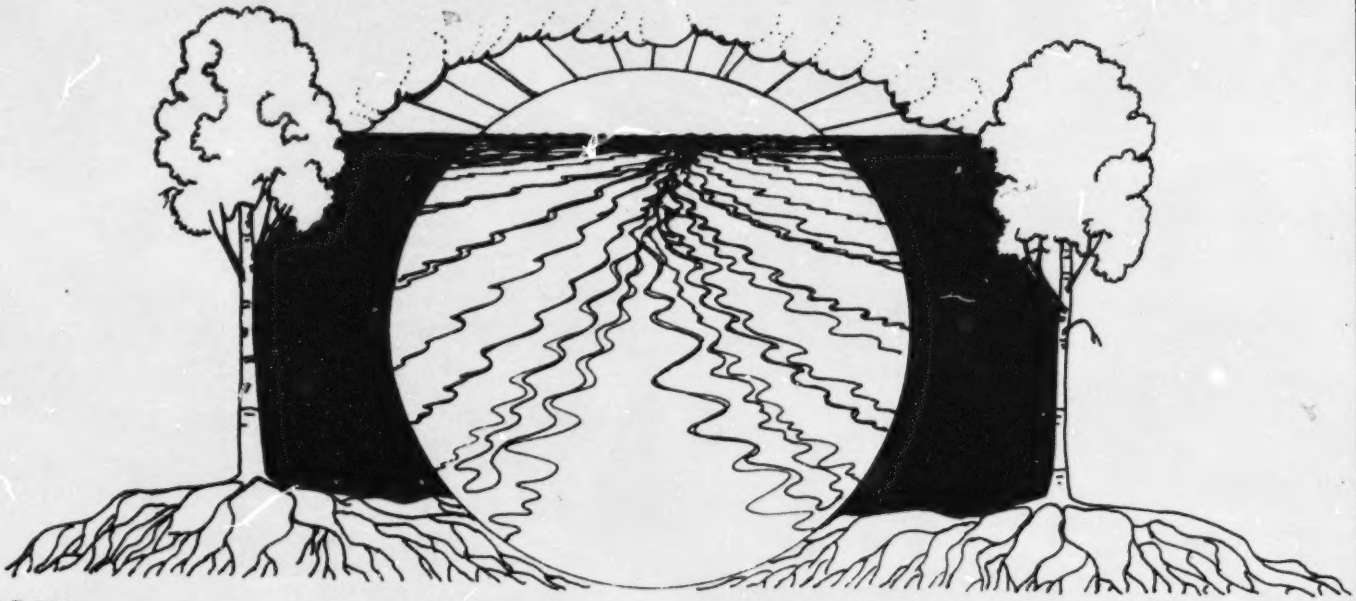
Pete Bobby

VEJEX JADA Vonga Bobby K'jada ghini stl'eni qeyełchix chu nułtu. Tets' k'i qeyełchix. Ch'u k'jada qeyelunuqełchix veł nuk'elgaxi ch'u veł tuk'eltseyi nułtu. Ch'q'u ts'iłten kidiluha qeyełchix ha'.

K'DINEH Vonga Bobby Shanteh ghu minłni'at k'iqu qel'an. Ghu ggek ts'iłten qeyeghudełt'ah. Veteldexa ghin ts'ah va'inghas-dedets ha. Ghini vekidituni, k'dineh, veq'ats'iyistkez. Chu nihdi qeyeł iłdix hnu'u veteldexa ghini nuves'idghulkeł. Ve-teldexa qenił'an.

CARIBOU SHINBONE They made caribou shinbone spear points for beaver. They made bear spears, too. And they sharpened the shinbone for skin scrapers and skin fleshers. And they made arrowheads.

DETACHABLE ARROWHEAD In the summer they would hunt in the water. They would use a hardwood bow. They would wrap the arrow shaft with sinew and the point, k'dineh, was tied to the shaft. When they shot a beaver with it, it would drag that arrow shaft. They would watch the arrow.



K'UDYI

K'udyi t'qeyeɬ'ih. Q'uyehdi qeyedeɬggux jitgguya q'u. Q'uyehdi qeyedeket' ha'. Dnalqeni minɬni qeyetuɬtl'et. Q'uyehdi q'in ghini k'udyi eɬ qeyetuɬtl'et. K'undet t'qit'a qeyelqit. Ku'u ɬik'aqa k'udyi ghuhniɬket.

Vonga Bobby

CARIBOU LICHEN

They gathered caribou lichen. Then they dried it a little. They crumbled it up. Then they poured hot water on it. They poured fish eggs into the caribou lichen. If there was a famine they ate this. Also, they fed caribou lichen to the dogs.

NDAŁIKA'A CH'DA

Ndałika'a ghini chiqeydełt'ik ch'u qeyeghusełtax ch'u tunuqeydelah. Ch'u q'uyehdi jitshia qeyedesih. Q'uyehdi ch'da qeyełchix. Ndałika'a ch'da ghini dghiłjaq ch'u nalqen.

Pete Bobby

BALD EAGLE ROBE

They would kill some bald eagles and they would skin them and wash them. Then they would scrape them just a little bit. Then they would make a robe. A bald eagle robe is light-weight and warm.

VANQ'ASHLI

Yaghelich' nichił iqu nuquyił vanq'ashli tułaɬi q'ent'ayi. Yedahdi ch'vala ts'indaz'uyi ɟaqeyedełk'eɬ. Q'uyehdi qeyeduves'a niqetix. Q'uyehdi qeyena niqetix. Q'uyehdi qeyeghech niqetix. Q'uyehdi qeyeghutl'iɬ. Q'uyehdi qeyes hyagh'a ghuɬnix. Q'uyehdi qeyejih. Tuhyełgget. Hyashtughunex.

Pete Bobby

BIRCHBARK BOAT

They went around to find good birchbark for making a birchbark canoe. They split a straight spruce. Then they made a frame. Next they made a center beam. Then they made the ribs. After that they covered it with skins and caulked it with pitch. Then they put it in the water. They would hunt in it.

NUDYI UQUL'IH

Łiq'a tl'aghhdi Venteh Dek'enluhi tuhtedeɬ. Ts'iɬghetna quggiɬ dunk'elax. Nudyi ghin tsendiɬ'esh. Vet'uyeɬ'esh hnuyu nch'u qeyniɬ'igh. Vet'uyeɬ'esh hnuyu k'ishi k'idlax k'idlax hnuyu. T'anch'q'u vak'idlax hnuyu, nacheyatda yeniɬ'ih. Q'uyehdi iqech'q'u niɬyideɬtix. Q'ut'un gheli hnuyu qich'tedeɬ. Q'uyehdi k'eniq' hch'ayelax ch'u hdeves qeyeɬdeɬ. Qeyeghusenela ch'u nuhaɬteldeɬ.

Emma Alexie

SHEEP HUNTING

After fishing, they would move up to the head of Swift River. They would set twenty snares. Those sheep would come down. When they went into the snares, no one would watch. Maybe some would get snared when they went into the snares. When they were all snared, our grandfather would look. Then he would camp overnight. Early in the morning, they would go over there. Then he would take them out of the snare loops and they would drag them down. They skinned them and packed them back.

HUNTING MOUNTAIN SQUIRREL

They killed seagulls. Then they split seagull wing feathers. They used split seagull wing feathers to make mountain squirrel snares. In the fall, we went to the Alaska Range. We gathered willows for snare toggle sticks and set the snares. Then we spent the night and checked them again. We killed mountain squirrel. They are so fat and the skin is so useful!

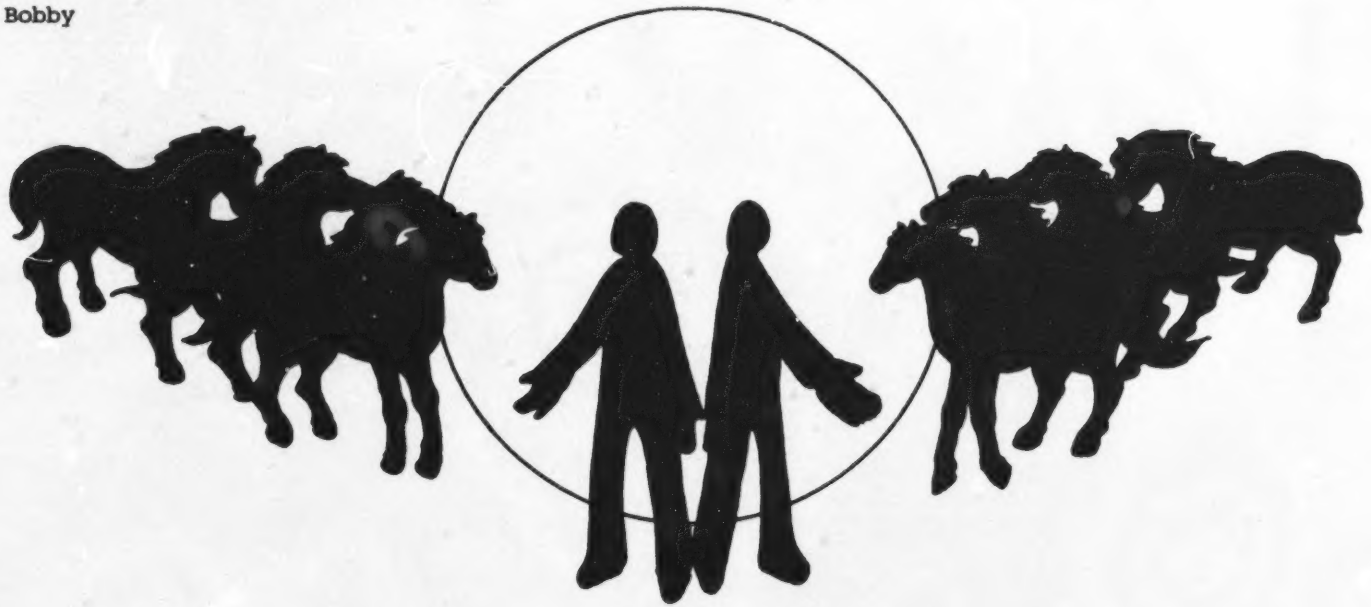
Nora Alexie

QUNSHA IQU CH'EL'AN

Vach chiqeyedełt'ix. Q'uyehdi vach ch'enlna k't'u' jaqeyedenłk'eł. Q'uyehdi qunsha quggila qeyenełchix. Q'uyehdi naqeliteh Dzełkenteh tuch'tedeł. Q'uyehdi ch'etl' ch'eł'ih hdi nułtu ch'u quggił duch'en-lax. Q'uyehdi ts'ił nił'detix ch'u nuch'tnil'ih. Q'uyehdi qunsha chich'dełt'ix. Nt'ey dghelyan ch'u veyes nt'ey veghuch'diłt'a.

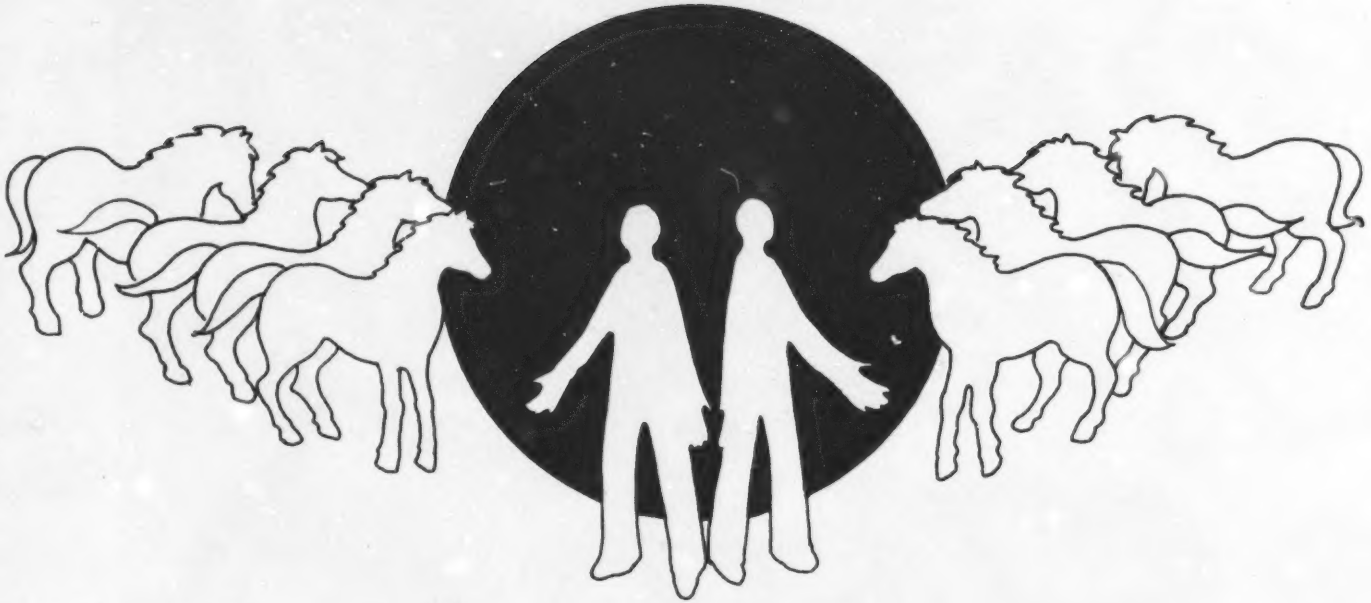
UNHTSAH BELGANICH

Pete Bobby



Natutda ch'q'aynigen ghilada eyghet Nilavena hch'ahnidatl'. Ch'q'u łtaqil'i guni ihdi qeyenuk'ułgha ł dehqada nihdi. Yeh gudih nił tenqezdatl' ch'u yehdi nishhghidatl' ch'u Kenaniq' q'ahghidatl'. Ch'u yehdi Yiqen qe ł tus-hghidatl' kiq'u. Yehdi nda'ich' shu yehqugh dehqayeh k'ishi nuhtasdatl'. Nutjhna yeh qeye ł hdighelts'i ch'u hguna ghink'i hu ł qidalts'i yik'i. Unhtsah gheli Belganich gudih nił tenqezdatl'.

THE FIRST AMERICANS



When our father was a child, the first Americans left from Iliamna. And they had eight horses packing their food. They passed through here and went down river and arrived at the Kuskokwim. And there they portaged over to the Yukon. From there they somehow got back to their village. Two of them stayed there with the people. They kept their horses. Those were the first Americans to pass through here.

TS'ELVENI Ts'elveni t'qeyeł'ih ch'u qeyedelish shihqugh. Qevek'inex ghu k'eldunteh veta'a dnalqeni yatudulnik. K'eldunteh dahyi dghudetlih. Ku'u yagheli ts'elveni vinik qeyedełchix.

Pete Bobby

GIGAZHNA TA'A Gigazhna ta'a ghini qeyedelish ch'q'u qeyetelch'eh qevechutl'a nch'u tiqesyuk ghu. Ch'u qevechutl'a egedu ghu. Ch'u yan qeyezhish.

Pete Bobby

JEGHDENGHULTL'ILA Jeghdenghultl'ila qeyelut'ich'a t'qeł'ih ch'q'u qeyedelish. Ch'q'uyehdi qeyenełq'ax. Ch'u qeyetnun kadałtin t'qeveł'ani ghuda.

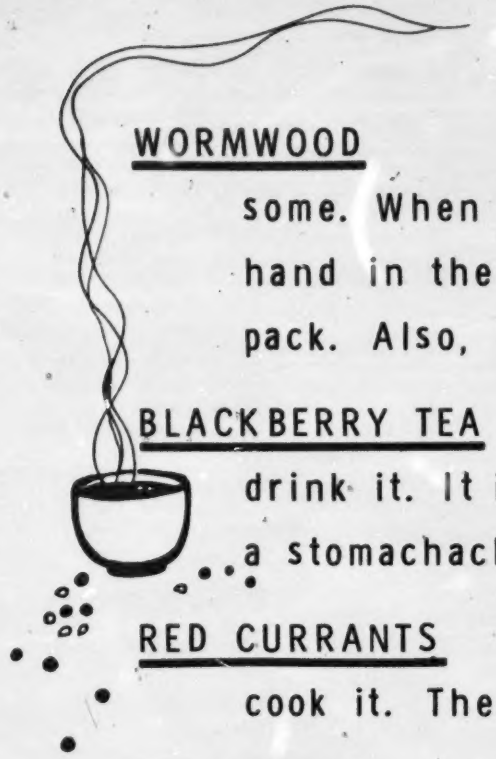
Vonga Bobby

NAN DASDELI Hutnaldu'en ghunen ilnitl'da nan dasdeli t'ehghił'an. Ch'u qałnigi htniłqix ch'u nan ghini eyiq' duqeyedetleh. Nan ghini dnilqix ch'u hutnaldu'en ghun duqeyedaztlaq'. Ughasht'ay qeyech' nudyih.

Nora Alexie

Q'ESH Q'esh qeyelut'ich'a t'qeł'ih. Q'uyehdi qeyedeyah k'izhagi eła. Q'uyehdi qeyetutinel. Ch'u q'uyehdi k'eyes ghini qeyedełtlish. Q'uyehdi nuqeyedełggux. Q'uyehdi dideded. Nch'u k'eyes veł k'enghelch'ezh.

Nora Alexie



WORMWOOD They gather wormwood and they cook it some. When one has blood poisoning, he sometimes sticks his hand in the warm water. Sometimes they put it on as a hot pack. Also, they make a nice wormwood steambath switch.

BLACKBERRY TEA They cook that blackberry tea and they drink it. It is used by those who are constipated or those with a stomachache. They drink only that.

RED CURRANTS They peel the red currant bark and they cook it. Then they cool it off. They drink it for tuberculosis.

RED MOSS If an injured person began to swell up, They would gather red moss. They heated rocks and they put that moss on them. The moss got warm and they put it on the person who was hurt. He'd get healed up quickly from it.

RED ALDER They peeled off the red alder bark. Then they scraped it with a knife. Next they poured water on it. Then they smeared it on the skin. It dried up and turned a red color. With this on the skin, it wouldn't dry out.

K'UHDA'I YES VANQ'ASHLI K'uhda'i shtuntgheshyu k'uhda'i yes vanq'ashli tghełchiłi iqu. K'uhda'i chik'tdghełt'ix ch'u veghus-tghełtał ch'u vetsen ghinhdi nutghelgheł. Tałqundahdi veyes kiq'u nutghelgheł. Q'uyehdi veyes ghini huch'tuzeh ch'u q'u-yehdi tsaq'anch'tdułqun ch'u q'uyehdi q'anch' tałqundahdi q'u-yehdi veq' duch'itu'eł. Q'uyehdi vach'k'itghighuquł. Q'uyehdi nen shi eł va łuhch'tghunex.

Nick Alexie

MOOSESKIN BOAT I'll go and hunt moose for mooseskin to build a skin boat. I'll kill some moose and skin them. And I'll sled back the meat. The next day I'll sled back the skins. We'll scrape the skins and we'll make a boat frame. The next day we'll cover it. Then we'll sew it to the frame. Then you and I will go on a boat trip.

VAK'IZHEGHI Yeghedishla vinazdli vak'izheghi zheɬchin. Vinazdli yach' niqahghayeshggezh. Ngheszegh ve'iɬgida k'u. Vingheshyitl'. Janghełchut' ch'u q'andazełqun. Eɬkuni k'u dghe'a.

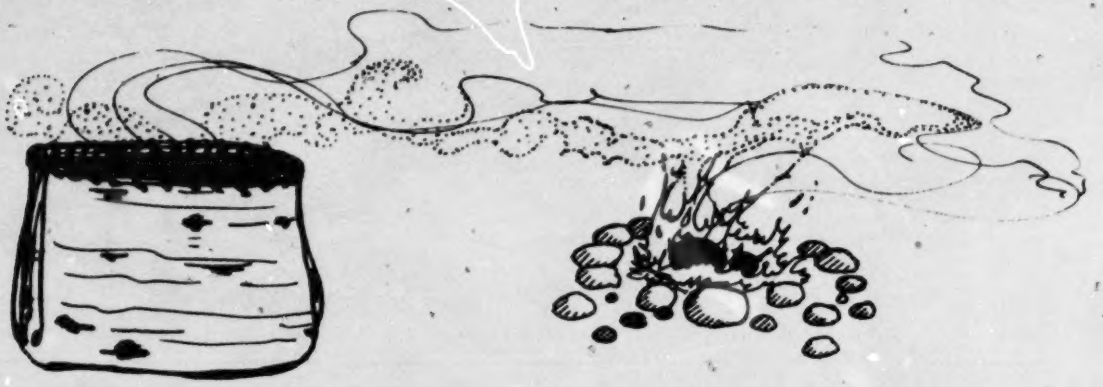
Pete Bobby

CHIK'DENŁGHASH Chik'denɬghash iqu ɬuhneshyu. Chik'denɬghash gheneshyu ch'q'u qatni'eɬqutl'. Nudanshtun ch'u va huhgheshlu. Ch'u dghayeshak ghelghet'i eɬ. Aliggi k'i sdas'a k'i lugheshga k'i kendushquɬ dgheshghun.

Pete Bobby

GUT COAT I made a black bear intestine coat. I turned the intestines inside out. I scraped off the residue. I blew it up. I cut it and sewed it up. It's a rain coat.

BURLS I went around looking for burls. I came to a burl and I chopped it off. I took it back and gouged out the insides. And I carved it with a curved knife. I made plates, basins, spoons, and bowls.

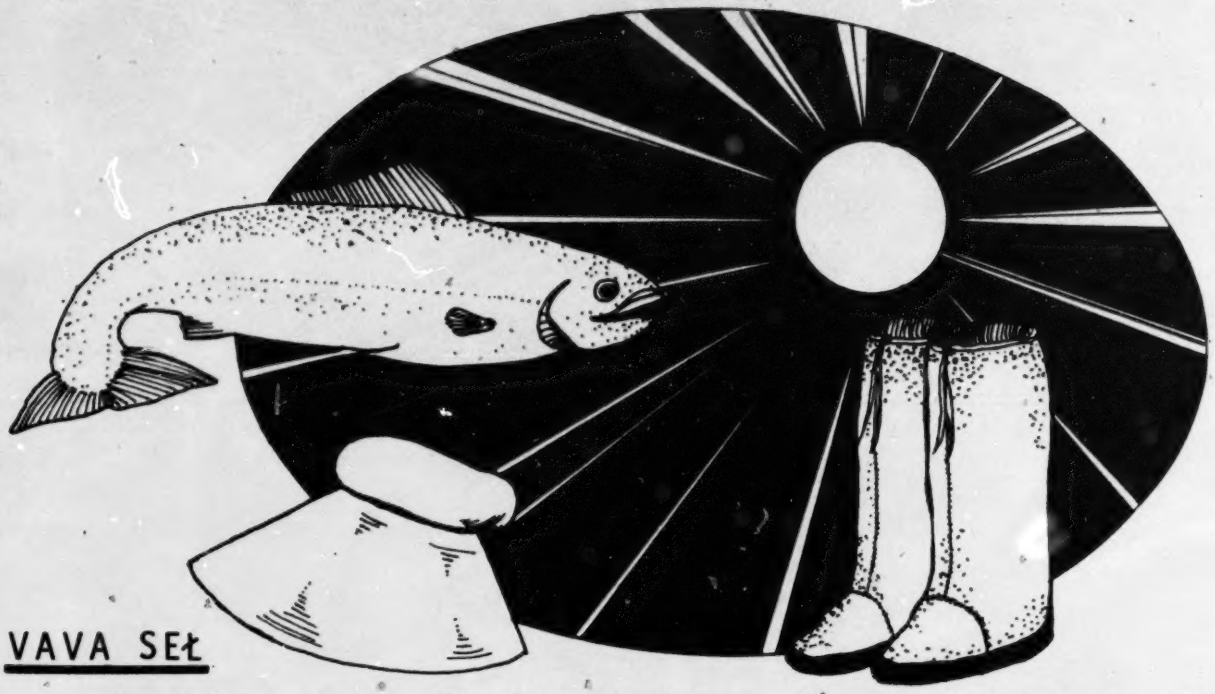


GHELCH'EHI Emma Bobby

Venen nuk'delaxi nichił deghdgheshtun. Q'uyehdi yesvits'. Q'uyehdi nudazełchel ch'u k'igheszegh. Q'uyehdi k'izhełch'eh. Ch'etl' veniqaydenghayeshtun. Q'uyehdi ts'ah eł q'andazełqun. Q'uyehdi minłni daghełtl'it'. Q'uyehdi qałnigi gguya dnizełqin. Vatudenghełdatl'. Q'uyehdi itnalghuzh. Vatuk'dghelyu ch'u chayi ch'ghizhezh.

BIRCH BASKET

In the month of May, I cut off some birch bark. Then I rolled it up. Next I moistened it and I scraped it. Then I folded it into a basket. I put a willow stick around it. Then I sewed it up with sinew. After that I put water in it. Then I heated up some little rocks. I dropped them in the water and then it boiled. I put a pinch of tea in it and we drank tea.



VAVA SEŁ

Łiq'ak'a veyes ch'ełggux ch'u ve'u nuts'k'itges. Q'uyehdi k'u ts'esih vashla ch'daghiłyani eł. Q'uyehdi ku'u mila ta'a at tunuch'-elax. Uch'en duch'dełdeł nch'u veqilchen ghuda. Q'uyehdi vava seł ch'ełchix. Chuł tełch'ex hyan vinuch'del'es.

Nora Alexie

FISH SKIN BOOTS

We dry king salmon skin and we tear the meat off. Then we scrape it some with a dull ulu. Then we soak it a while in soapy water. We hang them outside so they won't stink. Then we make fish skin boots. Whenever the east wind blows, we put them on.

CH'EQ'

Shanteh ch'etl' dendaɬnazi degh nuch'dghegis. Q'uyehdi ve'u nuch'k'eges. Ch'eq' ch'eɬ'ih. Q'uyehdi ch'enltl'il. Ch'eq' eɬ tahviɬ qeyeɬchix ɬiq'a nuɬtu. Ighi nch'quyi nuɬtu k'i qeyeɬchix. K'eldunteh idi'eɬ ɬiq'a k'i niɬench'enghełtl'i.

Nora Alexie

HUNQELASHI

Hunqelashi iqu ɬuhch'nidatl' vech'k'ituɬch'ehi nuɬtu. Ch'u quggiɬ, taz'in, ts'utl' tahviɬ nuɬtu. Ch'u ɬiq'a dik'ali veɬ niɬ ch'k'-duɬyishi nuɬtu. Nuch'enɬchiɬ ch'u janch'enɬk'eɬ. Qighishin gheli veghuch'diɬt'a.

Nora Alexie

WILLOW FIBER

In the summer we tear down tall willows. Then we tear the bark off. We make willow fiber. Then we braid it. With willow fiber we make nets for salmon. And we also make dipnets. Sometimes we string fish together with it.

SPRUCE ROOTS

We went out for spruce roots for making birch baskets. We also use it for making snares, fish traps, baby cradles, and nets. And it's for binding up fish stakes. We moisten it and split it. We really use it a lot.

CHUQILIN

T'q'uya eyi kuq'u chuqilin ch'eɬchix. Huch'ehdesex. Q'uyehdi nichiɬ eɬ hq'a ch'qeq'ex. Q'uyehdi ɬiq'a hq'a ch'elax. Q'uyehdi veq'ech' nichiɬ duch'deɬgget. Q'uyehdi k'echan ku'u veq' dyidehch' duch'deɬdeɬ. Q'uyehdi ɬach eɬ nuch'echux. Heyteh idi'eɬ kuq'u hunuch'elax. Tuq'i hey ki qich'eluh. Nch'u ki qil ɬak. Nora Alexie

FERMENTED FISH

We make fermented fish from red salmon. We dig a hole. Then we line the hole with birchbark. Then we put the fish in the hole. We put birchbark over it. Then we put some grass on it. After that we cover it with dirt. Then in the wintertime, we dig it up. We can keep it for more than three years. It won't turn bad.

HUZHEHI TAZ'IN Huzhehi taz'in ch'eɬchix. Ve'eshjaya qilan ha'. Heyteh tutsel qilan ha', deggech' duzishdghaz'un. Q'uyehdi huzhehi ghini deggech' huleh. Yeghech' tanatedleh. Q'uyehdi taz'in yileh.

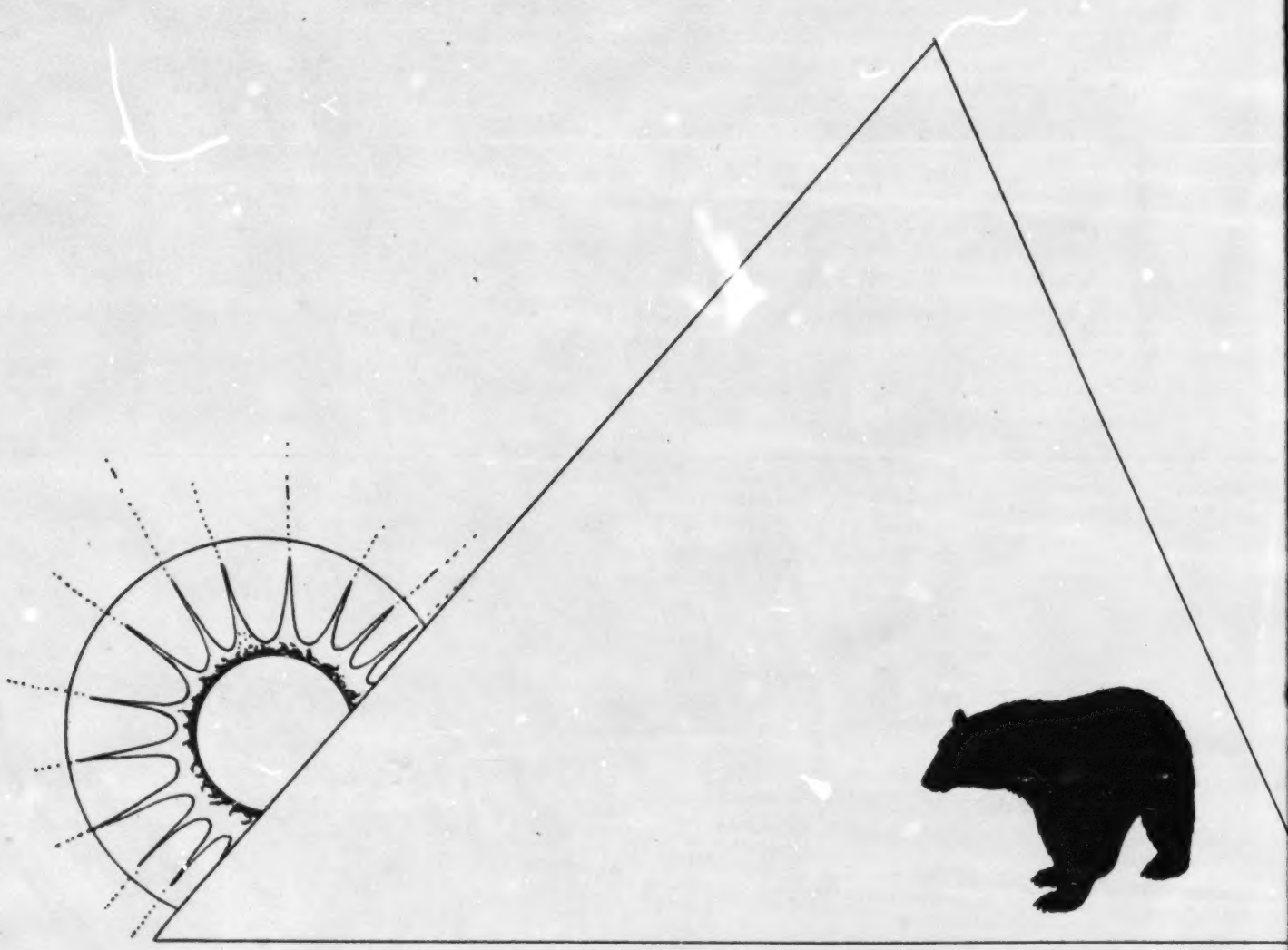
Pete Bobby

NCH'EQUYI Naqeliteh nch'equyi ghini ch'eɬchix. Nunuch'qeɬchix ch'u tl'ich'qeɬchix. Q'uyehdi vedununch'k'etix. K'inq'a ts'ezdu. Q'uyehdi duch'ehdi k'i nagh dileh. Nch'equyi eɬ vich'k'iqux.

Emma Alexie

BLACKFISH TRAP We made a blackfish trap. It has a funnel. In the water, when there is an open spot in the ice, we set it vertically. Then the blackfish swim up it. They fall back in. Then they've swum into the trap.

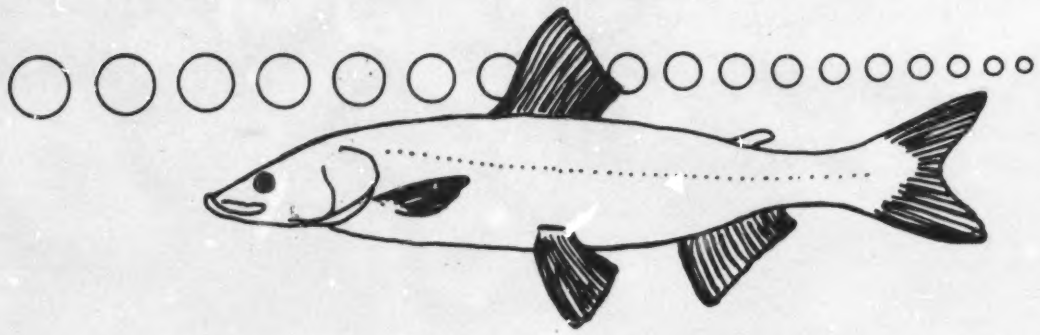
DIPNET In the fall we make a dipnet. We make a stick dam across and up the stream. Then we cover it. We sit at the fish hole. Then some suckers swim into it by us. We scoop them with the dipnet.



JIJA UQUCH'EL'AN

Łitl'enteh ghu jija iqu shtun'eshyu venteh yun'eh Shagelagh. Vanq'ashli at nughigheshnik ch'u jija dnaghelt'ay chidgheɬt'ik izin qeyeɬ k'iniɬi eɬ. Niɬ danshtun ch'u jija gheshnech ch'u zheɬch'etl'. Q'uyehdi sughelɖtl'.

Katherine Bobby

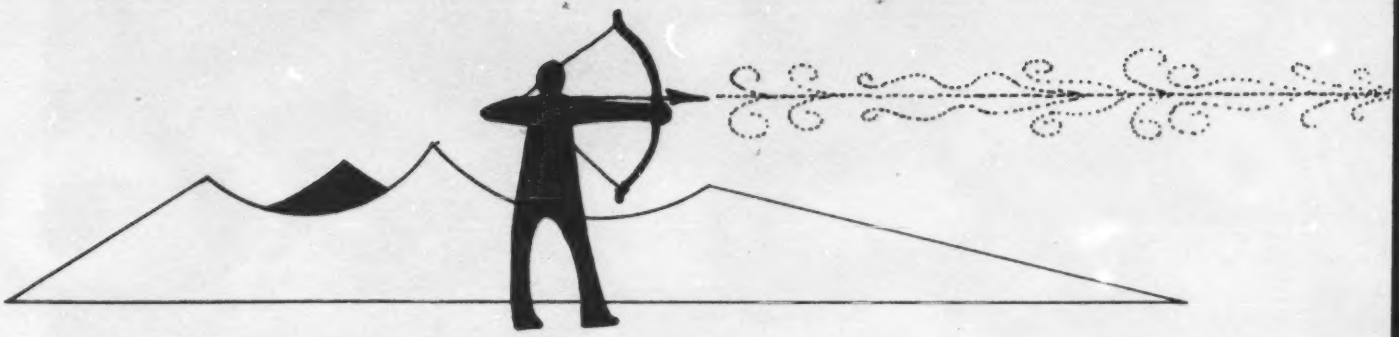


TELAY Pete Bobby Naqeliteh yus nidedetix. Tuvughhdi vegh'a ts'esdu. Yethdi telay teleh hnuyu ch'iggat duk'tnighezhi eɬa.

HELVEZHI Vonga Bobby Hulehga ghini ch'et'is. Telay, hesten ch'u duch'ehdi ghink'i ch'et'is. Q'uyehdi vich'k'naɬget hluzhun jani hqugh. Nch'u dniɬch'ik'.

WHITEFISH In the fall it freezes up out into the river. We sit on the edge by the water. Then when whitefish swim by, we spear them with a three-pronged spear.

DRY SMOKED WHITEFISH We cut Alaska whitefish. We also cut the broad whitefish, The round fish or the sucker. Then we leave them in smoke for ten days. It won't turn sour.



YEGHEDISHLA IQU CH'EL'AN

Naqeli dghiliq' ch'tazdatl' yeghedishla iqu. N'ugha huk'es'uk hq'u kelugh ghuch'didatl'. Q'uyehdi yudeh ghu ch'ezdatl' idi'eɬ hq'u tuq'i yeghedishla natl'eghch'en kelugh ghu nudil'uch'. Nt'ey nch'u chich'k'diɬnil. Q'uyehdi ku'u dghili veyach'en kiq'u ch'tazdatl' idi'eɬ yeghedishla ch'ghi'an. Q'uyehdi Nick udiyan yech' tazyu. Q'uyehdi ts'eɬq'i chiyedaɬyuq.

Nora Alexie

WE HUNT BLACK BEAR

In the fall, we went to the mountain to hunt for black bear. Before sunrise, we went along the timberline. When we went up, three black bears came into the clearing behind us. We didn't kill them. Then as we went behind the mountain, we saw a bear. Then Nick went towards it by himself. He killed one.

DUCK HUNTING

In the spring I went duck hunting at the lakes up at Shagelagh. I went in a skin canoe and I killed a lot of ducks with a shotgun. I stayed overnight and plucked the ducks and scorched them. Then I ate them all up.

NIVAGI

Łiq'a qelish ch'u q'uyehdi nivagi nuqełchix. K'iztin qeyeteh ch'ala. Qeyeggas dghel'ich' t'et'ix. Q'uyehdi ghelch'ehi tlegh hyaneł. K'enuja qeyetułdeł. Q'uyehdi k'uhda'i tlegha kiq'u qeyetuneł. Q'uyehdi giga qeyetuneł. Dghelneshi qeyetuneł. Dach'hdi nivagi nuqełchix.

Helen Dick

INDIAN ICE CREAM

They cook salmon and then make Indian ice cream. They clean out the bones. Then they wring it out until it gets soft. Next they put grease in a birchbark basket. Then they put in the fish meat. After that they pour in more moose grease. Then they pour in berries. They put in the sugar last. That's how they make Indian ice cream.